

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NESCO

HEW FOR USOE:RLEESTMA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, SEDU, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO/IBE COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 29 AND
SEPTEMBER 9, 1977 AND 36TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
EDUCATION, AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 8, 1977, GENEVA

REF: (A) STATE 200465; (B) STATE 197917; (C) STATE 198
727

1. REFTELS APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT DR. ROBERT
LEESTMA, ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDU-
CATION, USOE, AND IBE COUNCIL MEMBER, NOT INCLUDED IN
US DELEGATION TO SUBJECT COUNCIL MEETING AND CONFEREN-
CE. PERMDEL EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN AND STRONGLY RECOM-
MENDS THAT LEESTMA BE ADDED TO DELEGATION TO BOTH MEET-
ING AND CONFERENCE.

2. DEPT WILL RECAL THAT AT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE
IN NAIROBI NOV 1976, US WAS RE-ELECTED TO IBE COUNCIL
PRIMARILY BECAUSE US ASSURED WESTERN GROUP THAT US REP
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TO COUNCIL WOULD BE LEESTMA. IF LEESTMA DOES NOT AT-
TEND COUNCIL MEETINGS, THIS COULD HARM US CREDIBILITY
FOR FUTURE US ELECTIONS TO THIS AND OTHER BODIES. IT
RECOMMENDED THAT LEESTMA PARTICIPATE AT A MINIMUM IN
1ST FIVE DAYS OF CONFERENCE. HIS LACK OF PRESENCE FOR
AT LEAST THIS PERIOD AT MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN THIS BIENNIUM MIGHT BE CON-

STRUED AS BREACH OF FAITH WITH WESTERN MEMBER STATES WHO WITHDREW THEIR CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL AT GC AND OTHERS WHICH VOTED IN FAVOR OF LEESTMA AND COULD BE EMBARRASSING TO USDEL.

3. PRESIDENT OF IBE COUNCIL AGBLEMAGNON (TOGO) HAS QUESTIONED PERMDEL ABOUT LEESTMA'S PRESENCE, EXPRESSING DESIRE FOR HIS PARTICIPATION. LEESTMA WAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE AT LAST COUNCIL MEETING FOR ASSURING THAT CHANDLER WAS PLACED ON SHORT-LIST OF NOMINEES AND CONSEQUENT SELECTION AS IBE DIRECTOR. US INFLUENCE AT COUNCIL MEETING COULD BE SERIOUSLY REDUCED IF HE NOT PRESENT.

4. PERMDEL APPRECIATES REASONS FOR RESTRICTING CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS IN GENERAL. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS INCONSISTENT THAT 7-MEMBER US DELEGATION WAS SENT TO 30-MEMBER INTERIM INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT IN JULY 1977 WHILE ONLY FIVE-MEMBER US DELEGATION IS BEING SENT TO IBE CONFERENCE OF 140 MEMBER STATES. ALSO WISH CALL ATTENTION THAT ONLY 3 US MEMBERS WILL ATTEND WHOLE CONFERENCE. SMALL SIZE WILL SERIOUSLY HANDICAP USDEL OPERATIONS AT AND COVERAGE OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE WITH SERIOUS REDUCTION OF US INFLUENCE. LEESTMA'S PRESENCE VITALLY NEEDED AT BEGINNING AND PARTICULARLY PERIOD OF 1-3 SEPT WHEN ONLY UNCLASSIFIED

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3 DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL BE PRESENT AND WITH THREE AND FOUR CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS PROCEEDING SIMULTANEOUSLY.

5. IN BEST US INTEREST, PERMDEL RESPECTFULLY BUT STRONGLY REQUESTS DEPT TO ADD LEESTMA TO USDEL TO SUBJECT MEETING AND CONFERENCE. PERMDEL WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY SOONEST TO PASS ANSWER TO IBE COUNCIL PRESIDENT AGBLEMAGNON REGARDING LEESTMA'S ATTENDING.
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